

McCone Pictures His CIA Job As All-Intelligence Coordinator



Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), at right, greets Fred Korth before the start of a hearing yesterday by the Senate Armed Services Committee on Korth's nomination to be Secretary of the Navy. At center is John A. McCone, nominated for Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who also appeared.

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By Chalmers M. Roberts
Staff Reporter

Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone disclosed yesterday a Presidential directive that he guide and coordinate "the total United States and foreign intelligence effort."

He did so at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his confirmation. A favorable committee vote is expected on Monday.

McCone said he felt his post was "not a policy-making position" but that he would expect President Kennedy might ask "my personal opinion" due to his long prior service in government. He promised to keep the Committee informed and not to let his views be "colored or influenced," as Chairman Richard Russell (D-Ga.) put it, by any other Government agency.

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), not a Committee member, read a memorandum questioning the supervision of the agency and raising the old issue of McCone's aptitude during the 1956 presidential campaign about a group of scientists who differed with him on the nuclear test ban issue.

Opposes Unpoliced Test Ban

In response to later questioning by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), who strongly praised the nominee, McCone said that as a California Institute of Technology trustee he had "brought no formal charge" against the scientists. He said he had not "officially" sent anyone a copy of his letter of protest to the scientists.

As to his views, he said he was and continued to be "a strong supporter of massive retaliation" as a policy. But he also said the United States must be able to "conduct wars at various levels" of armaments. He said he was against an unpoliced test ban.

CIA operations, said McCone, would be carried out "with the knowledge" of the President and Secretary of State. He said the President had wide powers "to do the things which are necessary in the national interest and those powers are best served by taking steps to defeat the encroachment of communism."

McCone said one CIA change had been made: his deputy will serve as the agency representative on the National Intelligence Board rather than McCone himself, who is the Board chairman. This would give him a position of more impartiality, he said. But he also noted that the Board is advisory to the CIA director "who transmits his views" to the President.

Influence Reports Denied

McCone denied reports that he had used his influence while Atomic Energy Commission chairman to assign maintenance of the nuclear ship Savannah to a shipyard owned by him. He said the contract involved was made before he joined the AEC and that "I at no time discussed the assignment of that contract with anyone in Government."

He also denied that he had been responsible for any news leak while at AEC. McCarthy had asked whether he was responsible for anti-test ban reports from the agency.

The Committee also considered nominations of Navy Secretary Fred Korth and of Neil E. Harlan, Assistant Air Force Secretary for Financial Management. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) exacted a promise that Korth would stay on the job, a promise she said she also had received from his predecessor, John Conally, who quit to run for Governor of Texas.